

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a pressure relief valve for a flexible pouch which is integrated directly into the flexible pouch material. The valve permits excess of gas to dissipate through the valve mechanism but does not permit the reentry of air (hence oxygen) which maintains the food product fresh. The valve is integrated into the pouch material without implanting a fitment. The nature of the valve design results in the closing of the channels of the valve when gas is not discharging through the valve. A secondary purpose of the valve is to maintain the pressure in the pouch below an amount that can bloat the pouch to the extent that the seals can rupture and permit oxygen penetration or spilling of the contents outside the pouch. A nitrogen cap is maintained in the pouch thereby ensuring freshness of the product stored in the pouch.